



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: PR-3

September 14, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber
Director of Public Works

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gail Farber", is written over the printed name and title.

THE COUNTYWIDE BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS WASTE REDUCTION COMPETITION RECOGNITION REQUEST

The Department of Public Works' Generation Earth Program, an environmental education program, conducted the 2009 Battle of the Schools (BOS) Waste Reduction Competition from February 1, 2009, through May 1, 2009. This BOS Competition encourages students to take an active role in minimizing and diverting the waste generated on their school campus. This year, we experienced the highest diversion amounts and the largest number of schools participating.

As we did last year, we will honor one school from each Supervisorial District that diverted the most waste within a given two-week period (Attachment I). We are requesting that each Supervisor: 1) acknowledge the winning schools in his/her District by providing a proclamation in recognition of their commitment and achievements, and 2) present proclamations to the school representatives at a Board of Supervisors meeting in October or November 2009.

Competition Description:

The goal of this BOS Competition is to enhance students' and teachers' awareness about the urban waste cycle, issues pertaining to waste management, and practical solutions to divert waste material away from landfills. The students begin the BOS Competition by conducting a campus waste audit, which serves as a baseline of current campus waste generation. Throughout the two-week period, students develop and promote their program and monitor their waste generation, reduction, and diversion. Then, Generation Earth calculates and determines the net waste diverted per school, as well as the average pound reduction per capita on campus.

Each Supervisor
September 14, 2009
Page 2

We would appreciate the opportunity to speak to you and your staff to provide additional details about the BOS Competition. We will gladly provide wording for the proclamations. If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Emma L. Ayala, Public Relations Group, at (626) 458-4093.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Executive Office (Lari Sheehan)
Executive Office

Battle of the Schools Waste Reduction Competition

The schools listed below are the 2008-09 BOS Waste Reduction Competition winners:

District 1: CALS Early College High School
700 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90017

The California Academy for Liberal Studies (CALS) Early College High School launched their recycling program in spring 2008. That same year, CALS placed first as the overall High School winner for the BOS Competition. Andy Stephens, a physics teacher and faculty sponsor of the school's Mean Green Team Eco-Club, continued to build the student recycling program in 2009. The Mean Green Team members took field trips to the Burbank Recycling Center and the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, using these trips as an educational and motivational tool. The Mean Green Team designed, audited, implemented, and continues to collect, monitor, and record all data related to their campus' Waste Reduction and Recycling Program. In 2009, CALS diverted 2.68 pounds per student of mixed paper and cardboard for over 900 pounds of materials.

District 2: Dorsey High School
3537 Farmdale Avenue, Los Angeles, 90016

Dorsey High School established their campus recycling program through the Global Warriors, an environmental club. They held a poster contest to help promote their recycling programs; collected mixed paper, bottles, and cans; and conducted an electronic waste (E-Waste) collection event on campus, which also serviced the community surrounding Dorsey. The Global Warriors have an ongoing community and neighborhood assistance program that assists with tree plantings and neighborhood clean-ups. In 2009, the *Los Angeles Times* featured an article about all of their causes and efforts implemented at the campus and around the neighborhood. Dorsey diverted 14.96 pounds per person of mixed paper, plastic, aluminum, and E-Waste. They diverted over 28,650 pounds of materials from landfills. Also, Dorsey students created an informative video that addresses the serious problems of waste, waste reduction, recycling, and litter on campuses. In addition, Dorsey is creating a campus garden and is looking to create a system on campus to collect and utilize stormwater and rainwater to irrigate the campus gardens.

District 3: Paul Revere Charter Middle School
1450 Allenford Avenue, Los Angeles, 90049

Paul Revere Charter Middle School established an extensive recycling program on their campus. This program utilizes the City of Los Angeles' Curbside Collection Recycling Program, works with the Los Angeles Conservation Corp, and includes their campus composting and green waste reuse program. Paul Revere conducted a campus audit and worked with the school district to expand and try new innovative opportunities made available to them. During the BOS Competition period, they diverted 13,530 pounds of mixed paper, cardboard, plastic, bottles, aluminum cans, green waste, and food scraps. This averaged out to 6.53 pounds per student. Paul Revere placed recycling containers around campus for collection of CRV materials and has done an excellent job of promoting their programs.

District 4: Norwalk High School
11356 East Leffingwell Road, Norwalk, 90650

Norwalk High School established a successful, sustainable waste reduction and recycling program for cardboard, mixed paper, bottles, and cans. This year, they diverted 10,415 pounds of cardboard, mixed paper, plastic, and aluminum. This averaged to 4.37 pounds diversion per student during the reporting period. Norwalk has an in-depth tracking system that students maintain and promote to all teachers and students. They collect the materials for the classrooms and make sure the recyclables are in the recycling bins. Norwalk also established campus gardens and areas planted with drought-tolerant native species, which help reduce stormwater pollution and water consumption. During 2009, Norwalk also hosted a Generation Earth Waste Reduction and Recycling Workshop on campus. Norwalk continues to establish new innovative programs and projects on their campus.

District 5: South Pasadena Middle School
1600 Oak Street, South Pasadena, 91030

The South Pasadena Middle School CHANGE Eco-Club began working with Generation Earth in the 2008-09 school year. Faculty sponsor, Carolyn Patterson, and her students participated in the 2008 Teen Youth Kick-Off Forum held at ABC Disney Studios. Working with Generation Earth's Special Projects Coordinator, Steve Howe; the Teen Action Program Facilitator, Loyda Ramos; and the CHANGE Eco-Club South Pasadena took full advantage of Generation Earth's programs, including hosting the January 2009 Waste Reduction and Recycling Workshop, facilitating the 2009 Teen Recognition Event, and educating both their campus and the South Pasadena City Council on current recycling efforts. Their success in the 2009 BOS Competition was capped by an E-Waste collection event held at their campus that brought the sum total of their diversion efforts to 14,743 pounds, which also included mixed paper, card board, plastic bottles, and E-Waste.